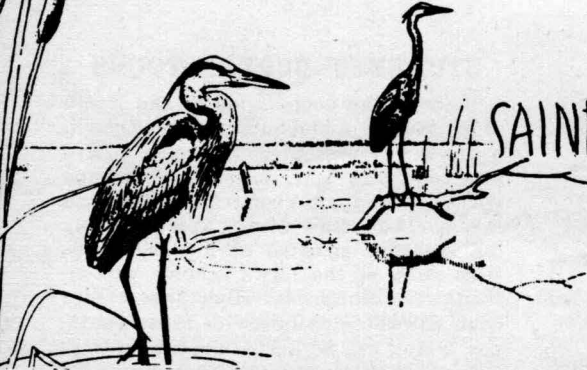




SAINT LOUIS BIRD CLUB

BULLETIN

VOL. 16, No. 3.

April-May, 1947

Wayne Short Resigns Presidency

Wayne Short, President of the St. Louis Bird Club during the past eight years, retired from office at the April 22 Screen Tour meeting. His nation-wide work as Assistant to the President of the National Audubon Society requires that he be away much of the time, making it increasingly difficult for him to preside at Club functions. During his eight years as President he had missed only one Screen Tour and one Forest Park Bird Walk, despite his yearly 25,000 mile travel. This faithful record was achieved under such schedules as a recent ten month period that took him to 47 states, Mexico, the Bahamas and most of the provinces of Canada. Vice-President Luther Ely Smith, in taking over the Club's leadership until election of officers on May 19, pointed out that in Wayne Short the St. Louis Bird Club has had a leader such as few bird clubs ever possessed. Under his guidance the Club has grown from a small group to a position of national prominence. Now second largest in the country, it has become a model for similar clubs the nation over, and is one of the city's foremost civic institutions. The Screen Tour program idea, which Wayne Short originated for the Club, and which the National Audubon Society has adopted and furthered, is an ever-expanding movement—with 104 cities in the United States and Canada participating next year. This movement has come to be one of the nation's largest forces in the popularizing of conservation education and the love of wildlife.

Wayne Short's retirement as President does not mean that the Club will lose his services entirely. Now, however, we must share him with bird clubs and Audubon societies everywhere.

Special Awards and Prizes

This spring the generous Loyalty Night contributions of Club members made it possible for the St. Louis Bird Club to make a number of special awards and prizes, which were announced on April 22, at the Roger Tory Peterson Screen

Tour meeting. Two scholarships of \$100.00 each, for the Audubon Nature Camp and Audubon Nature Center were awarded to Miss Erna Nauert and to Miss Anne Bayha, respectively. \$180.00 went to Sterling P. Jones for publication of a new edition of his Check List. "Scholarship Memberships" in the St. Louis Bird Club, for one year, were presented to: Luanne Baehler, Gordon Bracken, Wm. Hurst, Michael Kausch, William Mahne, Edward Oechsle, Dorothy Penn, Richard Reichle, Jr., Larry Russell, Robert Thornton, David

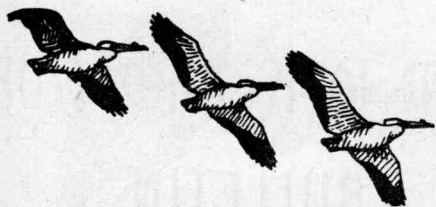


WAYNE SHORT

Wichman and Eugene Wilhelm. Recognition was thereby made of the outstanding work of these boys and girls in the fields of bird study, nature study, and conservation. In addition three special awards of autographed copies of the new Peterson Field Guide, soon to appear, were made to: William Bremser, Jr. Kurt Wesseling, Jr., and James Ziervogel.

Winners of the Wildlife Photography Contest were as follows: First prize (\$25) John H. Gerard, Jr., for his "Black-crowned Night Heron". Second prize (\$15) William Holzmark, Jr., for his "Black Tern". Third prize (\$10) Mrs. Wm. Scarlett, for her "Gulls in Flight". The high merit of these photographic studies was publicly recognized when they were published in the rotogravure section of the Sunday Post-Dispatch, May 4. Funds for the Photography Contest were contributed by Club member G. Alex Hope.

The presentation of these awards and prizes made this a stirring and gratifying evening for all 1500 who were present.



STUDENTS' SCREEN TOURS

Through the cooperation of the Board of Education, Audubon Screen Tours will next year be presented in a series of five afternoon programs, co-sponsored by the Division of Audio-Visual Education and the St. Louis Bird Club. Approximately ten students, selected on a merit basis, from each of the city's schools will attend. The Southwest High School Bird Club will serve as hosts for these matinees, which will be held at Southwest High School Auditorium. They will be under the supervision of Miss Elizabeth Golterman, Director of the Division of Audio-Visual Education and member of the Club's Board of Directors.

We consider this an important step forward in the extension of conservation education in St. Louis.

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1207 N. 7th St., CEntral 0631

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NEXT YEAR'S "DOINGS"

Plans for the '47-48 season of both Audubon Screen Tours and the Local Programs have been pretty well formulated; and it looks as though next year will be an outstanding one.

Schedules now call for the following seven programs, all of them featuring natural color motion pictures. October: William Ferguson, syndicated-feature writer of nature believe-it-or-nots, with "This Curious World in Nature". November: Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., "Athabaska Sojourn", some of his experiences and adventures in quest of the almost-vanished whooping crane. December: George Miksch Sutton, "North with the Birds", a film of the birds that live in the Arctic during the summer—many of them acquaintances of ours during migration. January: Karl Maslowski, whose subject will be the wildlife of his native "Buckeye" state. February: Alfred M. Bailey will show films of the recent MacMillan expedition to Labrador. March: Bert Harwell with his new "Canada West" program—which will feature studies not only of birds but also of big game and other animals. April: Telford H. Work of California, "Bits of Land along the Coast", exciting account of nature ex-

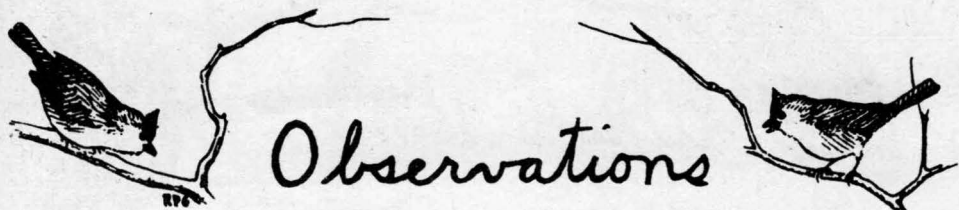
peditions to inaccessible and isolated island havens.

The "Local Programs" have been so well received by Club members, and have aroused so much interest that they will be continued as a permanent part of the Club's activities. While the program committee has not yet completed the '47 plans, we are looking forward to those announced at this time: In November: Father Link, with an illustrated program "Gopher Country". January: "Member's Night"—a combined "talent night" by various members of the Club. February: a "repeat performance by popular command" of the splendid open-house program which Elizabeth Golterman and Marvin Beckman conducted at the Division of Audio-Visual Education. April: art exhibit of original Fuertes bird paintings, with talk by Wayne Short. May: Annual Meeting with guest of honor Richard Pough, former president of the St. Louis Bird Club, and now Research Director of the National Audubon Society. There will be an October program, to be announced later.

If you have not already sent in your renewal for next season, we are sure this sketch of next year's "doings" will make you want to do so at once!

Annual Meeting—Carl W. Buchheister—Wildlife in New England—May 19

The Club's Annual Meeting, including election of officers, will take place on May 19, at Brown Hall, Washington University, at 7:45 P. M. Special feature of the evening will be a color motion picture, "Wildlife in New England", presented by Carl W. Buchheister, Vice-President of the National Audubon Society. This will be the final Club meeting of the year, and the climax of our first season of "Local Programs". Bring a friend! A Special Pass is enclosed with this bulletin for that purpose.



The annual Spring Census, taken May 4, this year, produced a combined list of 178 species recorded for the area; which was somewhat smaller than last year's all-time record of 184. However, there was one record broken: Jack Van Benthuysen, with the highest individual list for the day, 118, broke the record of 117 set by Wayne Short last year. Runners-up were Kurt Wesseling, Jr., with 116; Wayne Short, 110; James Earl Comfort, 108; William Bremser, Jr., 100. Best bird of the day was the yellow-headed blackbird, discovered in St. Louis County by Mrs. Gertrude Drury; and also observed by several other groups. Among the other outstanding "finds of the day" were the Wilson's phalarope, by Alberta Bolinger and Buel White; clay-colored sparrow, by Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Moore; red-breasted nuthatch, and horned grebe, by Wayne Short; sycamore warbler, by H. B. Stere and Kay Wade.

Cooperating with the St. Louis Bird Club, to take this Census, were: The Webster Groves Nature Study Society; biology department of the Principia, at Elsah, Illinois; Cahokia Nature League, East St. Louis; Trailrangers, at Grafton; and Rockwoods Reservation, at Glencoe, Mo. A complete list of the species observed for the day, within a 50 mile radius of St. Louis follows:

Pied-billed grebe, horned grebe, double-crested cormorant, great blue heron, American egret, eastern green heron, black-crowned night heron, American bittern, common mallard, blue-winged teal, shoveller, wood duck, lesser scaup duck, ruddy duck, American merganser, turkey vulture, sharpshinned hawk, Cooper's hawk, red-tailed hawk, red-shouldered hawk, broad-winged hawk, American rough-legged hawk, marsh hawk, American osprey, sparrow hawk, bob-white, ring-necked pheasant, king rail, Virginia rail, sora, American coot, semipalmated plover, killdeer, woodcock, Wilson's snipe, spotted sandpiper, solitary sandpiper, greater yellow-legs, lesser yellow-legs, pectoral sandpiper, least sandpiper, semipalmated sandpiper, Wilson's phalarope, herring gull, Forster's tern, common tern, rock dove, mourning dove, yellow-billed cuckoo, screech owl, great horned owl, barred owl, chuck-will's-widow, whip-poor-will, nighthawk, chimney swift, ruby-

throated hummingbird, belted kingfisher, northern flicker, pileated woodpecker, red-bellied woodpecker, red-headed woodpecker, yellow-bellied sapsucker, eastern hairy woodpecker, northern downy woodpecker, eastern kingbird, northern crested flycatcher, eastern phoebe, Acadian flycatcher, least flycatcher, wood pewee, northern horned lark, prairie horned lark, tree swallow, bank swallow, rough winged swallow, barn swallow, northern cliff swallow, purple martin, blue jay, eastern crow, black-capped chickadee, Carolina chickadee, tufted titmouse, white-breasted nuthatch, red-breasted nuthatch, brown creeper, western house wren, Bewick's wren, Carolina wren, prairie marsh wren, short-billed marsh wren, mockingbird, catbird, brown thrasher, eastern robin, wood thrush, olive-backed thrush, gray-cheeked thrush, willow thrush, eastern bluebird, blue-gray gnatcatcher, golden-crowned kinglet, ruby-crowned kinglet, cedar waxwing, migrant shrike, starling, white-eyed vireo, yellow-throated vireo, blue-headed vireo, red-eyed vireo, Philadelphia vireo, warbling vireo, black and white warbler, prothonotary warbler, worm-eating warbler, golden-winged warbler, blue-winged warbler, Tennessee warbler, orange-crowned warbler, Nashville warbler, northern parula warbler, yellow warbler, magnolia warbler, Cape May warbler, myrtle warbler, black-throated green warbler, cerulean warbler, Blackburnian warbler, sycamore warbler, chestnut-sided warbler, black-poll warbler, n. pine warbler, northern prairie warbler, western palm warbler, oven-bird, northern water-thrush, Grinnell's water-thrush, Louisiana water-thrush, Kentucky warbler, northern yellow-throat, yellow-breasted chat, Wilson's warbler, Canada warbler, American redstart, English sparrow, European tree sparrow, bobolink, eastern meadowlark, yellow-headed blackbird, eastern red-wing, orchard oriole, Baltimore oriole, rusty blackbird, bronzed grackle, cowbird, scarlet tanager, summer tanager, cardinal, rose-breasted grosbeak, indigo bunting, dickcissel, purple finch, eastern goldfinch, red-eyed towhee, Savannah sparrow, grasshopper sparrow, lark sparrow, chipping sparrow, clay-colored sparrow, eastern field sparrow, white-crowned sparrow, whitethroated sparrow, Lincoln's sparrow, swamp sparrow, Mississippi song sparrow.



Who's Who?



HOWARD L. ORIAN

On March 31, Howard L. Orians of Milwaukee presented a Screen Tour program of unusual interest. "Lakelore", dealing with the wildlife near and on Lake Michigan, was extremely well received—particularly for its splendid studies of ducks and other waterfowl.

WAYNE SHORT

The Hurter collection of mounted bird specimens came in for attention and study on April 11, with Wayne Short's program "A Look at Birds", at the Academy of Science. It was an informal open-house affair, and quite well attended. For many it was their first introduction to this outstanding group of specimens collected in the St. Louis region some 80 years ago. And for many too it was their first occasion to visit the Academy of Science, with its interesting exhibits.

ROGER TORY PETERSON

The last of this year's Audubon Screen Tours, on April 27, was Roger Tory Peterson's "Field Guide to the Familiar". For field birders it was a special treat to receive identification instructions by an outstanding authority, particularly with the birds right there in full color, before their eyes. An audience of 1500 took advantage of this opportunity to see and hear in person the man who wrote the "Field Guide" which so many of us constantly use.

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On March 23, in St. Charles County, Helen Einspanier, Hattie Ettinger, Jack Van Benthuyzen, and Ethel Wolfe, had the thrill of discovering a WHISTLING SWAN! This bird, so rare that it will doubtless rank as "bird of the year", for 1947, was a "rare transient visitant" even in Widmann's listing in 1907.

* * * * *

The St. Louis Bird Club did a fine job of "making friends and influencing people" through its booth at the Flower Show, at Kiel Auditorium, in March. Thanks to the splendid efforts of John C. McGuire, Mrs. G. H. Klinkerfuss, and the other loyal Club members who did so much to make it a success, our small booth was one of the most popular of the show. Serving as "host and hostesses" were: Anne Bayha, Helen Einspanier, Helen Henke, Mrs. G. H. Klinkerfuss, John C. McGuire, John McGuire, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. George Moore, Mildred Reese, Grace Rinderknecht, Ethel Von Hahn, and Ethel Wolfe.

* * * * *

On March 29, the western meadowlark, a rare bird here, was seen and heard by several groups, on Taussig Avenue, St. Louis county.

* * * * *

Mrs. Gertrude Drury, Hattie Ettinger and Frances Pickel observed a Harris's sparrow, near Marais Temps Clair, on April 30.

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